

# Data Sources & Limitations

*Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS) 1.1 2000/01*



## **Strengths:**

- Detailed information on individuals (e.g. income, education, ethnicity)
- 1<sup>st</sup> person accounts of health system experiences and health status (administrative databases only describe utilization)
- Useful as a relative measure of the range of differences

## **Limitations:**

- Small sample size (2382) – no respondents in some neighbourhoods & need to aggregate to large geography – wide confidence intervals
- May not be representative of entire population in areas
- Crude indicators – not age standardized or age specific
- People under-report certain conditions (eg. Chronic conditions) and socially undesirable behaviour (eg. Smoking during pregnancy) leading to underestimates of prevalence
- People over-estimate socially desirable behaviours (eg. Exercise, fruit & vegetable consumption)

# CCHS Representativeness



Assessment based on % age 15+

- in owner households,
- immigrants,
- age 65+
- female/male

CCHS 1.1 weighted sample was compared to the 2001 Census 15+ in Households for rate differences >15%; percentage point differences >10%; change in ranking out of 15; and, change in High/Low/Similar clustering. In the majority of cases there was little change in the relative ranking of the 15 areas. Therefore the 15 Minor Health Planning Areas are potentially useful for demonstrating the range of health differences. Their usefulness will be improved by combining several survey years (1.1 with 2.1 and 3.1) to increase sample size and better assess representativeness and significance.

# CCHS Representativeness: 15 Minor Health Planning areas (MHPAs)



CCHS 1.1 sample is comparable to area populations on the variables assessed for 5 MHPAs: 2b-York Weston, 3c-Midtown, 4a-Danforth East York; 4b-Downtown & Waterfront and 5c-Scarborough Centre

CCHS 1.1 sample underrepresents seniors but is comparable for other variables assessed for 3 MHPAs: 1a-Rexdale, 5a-Agincourt & 5b-Rouge

CCHS 1.1 sample underrepresents homeowners but is comparable for other variables assessed for 2MHPAs:1b-Etobicoke South & 2a-Humber Downsview

The CCHS 1.1 sample for 2 MPHAs (3a-Willowdale and 3b-North Toronto Don Mills) over-represents seniors (thus more females in 3b) but is comparable on the other variables assessed.

The CCHS 1.1 sample for 2c York Junction underrepresents seniors and owners; 2d-Parkdale underrepresents seniors and immigrants, and 5d- Scarborough Cliffs underrepresents seniors and owners and over- represents immigrants (3 MHPAs). The CCHS is less useful for these areas.